



# ECEAP

WASHINGTON STATE'S



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION  
AND  
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

**Preschool for low-income and at-risk children in Washington State**

## ECEAP and Child Care Work Together

**The early years are crucial to a child's healthy development, and both ECEAP and child care providers play an important role.** Working together, child care and ECEAP can meet the comprehensive needs of children while allowing for a sufficient duration of quality care so their families can work, go to school, and do whatever it takes to ensure their family's success. Here are some facts about the relationship between ECEAP and child care:

- ◆ Children and families that participate in ECEAP for the comprehensiveness and intensity of its school readiness services often still need full day care that ECEAP alone does not typically provide.
- ◆ As more is learned about the critical windows of brain development experienced by young children, child care providers increasingly look to partner with early education programs like ECEAP and the federal Head Start program to deliver enhanced quality services.
- ◆ Currently, there are 71 ECEAP sites that are either integrated with child care for a full service day or offer care before and after ECEAP services for enrolled children. This represents over 26 percent of the total ECEAP sites statewide.
- ◆ According to the 1999 study *The Children of the Cost, Quality & Child Outcomes Study Go to School*, "The quality of children's experiences in typical child care centers affects their development while they are in child care and their readiness for school. Children who attended higher quality child care centers performed better on measures of both cognitive skills (e.g., math and language abilities) and social skills (e.g., interactions with peers, problem behaviors) in child care and through the transition into school." [http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~ncedl/pages/project\\_summary.cfm?studyid=7](http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~ncedl/pages/project_summary.cfm?studyid=7)
- ◆ Conversely, "Children who have traditionally been at-risk of not doing well in school...were more sensitive to the negative effects of poor quality child care." In other words, poor quality care can actually damage a child's development. Clearly, the high quality, comprehensive care that results from partnerships between ECEAP and child care is more important than ever.

**ECEAP: Ready to Succeed!**